

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019090337

To: Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, Ca 90650

From: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Project Title: 2019 Water Exchange Between Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCVWA) and Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency (AVEK)

Location -- Specific: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (“SCVWA”) is located in Los Angeles County. Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency (“AVEK”) is located in Northern Los Angeles County and Eastern Kern County.

Location -- Counties: Kern County and Los Angeles County

Description of Activity: The project involves a 2:1 water exchange between SCVWA and AVEK. The project would allow SCVWA a one-time transfer of up to 7,500 AF of its 2019 SWP Table A Water Supply, in exchange for up to 3,750 AF of water from future allocated AVEK SWP Table A Water Supply. AVEK will take delivery of exchange water between September 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 of SWP Table A water through Reaches 18A through 22B of the California Aqueduct. The project will use existing SWP facilities. The agreement has a term of ten years and return water shall be delivered by December 31, 2029. Return water will be delivered by releasing future AVEK allocations from the SWP Table A Water Supply in the California Aqueduct.

Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Lead Agency), Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.
- Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

Reasons why activity is exempt: CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA based upon the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing significant environmental impacts. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. SCVWA finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility for significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer that will use existing

facilities and would not require any construction or grading.

2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.

Additionally, since the project will rely on the operation of existing facilities, there will be no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the Lead Agency's determination and will not have a significant effect on the physical environment. The project also qualifies for a categorical exemption from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301. None of the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines would apply to the proposed action.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dirk Marks

Telephone: 661-513-1297

Signature: 

Title: Director of Water Resources **Date:** 9-10-19

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

SEP 12 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE